

Learn To Grow, Inc.
Detailed timeline of activities

The Compliance Checks strategy was approved on June 29, 2017 with a Community Readiness Score of 4 (action, pre-planning). Even though Compliance Checks should ideally have a Community Readiness Score of 6 (action, Initiation), we were still directed by our RPS, to implement the Compliance Checks strategy. The following are detailed timeline of activities and avenues that Learn To Grow, Inc. has taken to pursue this strategy from July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017.

In July 2017

The PC, in an attempt to build capacity to implement this strategy, collaborated with the Georgia Department of Revenues for assistance and directly met with and spoke to Agent Dylan Wade of the Georgia Department of Revenue to discuss moving forward in the partnership and implementing compliance checks in the community. We were informed that GA DoR had a new training protocol for use and that our youths would work as “decoys” during compliance checks. Agent Wade said he would be providing LTG will all of the necessary paperwork to be provided to youths and their parents in order for them to be a part of the strategy. Agent Wade said he would be meeting with the youth individually as well as with their parents prior to training and the first compliance check.

The PC worked with CPAW members to develop a list of all of the retailers in the target community. The PC will keep a list of all of the retailers and use it as a check list once compliance checks take place, and will note the results of the compliance check. This will be in addition to data provided by GA DoR.

We received the criteria from GA DoR Special Agent Wade. We identified 3 potential youths that we vetted to determine if they would be able to meet the criteria of GA DoR as well as the expectation that LTG has of youth volunteers. Partner organizations began to volunteer to assist with youth recruitment by seeing if they have any interested youth that will be able to assist with our compliance check. Agent Wade has not contacted us about our youth volunteers. Also, we found out that we could not get zip code data and we could not work with Agent Wade.

In August 2017

The Project Coordinator had direct communication with several agents from the Georgia Department of Revenue. An agent from the Georgia Department of Revenue provided the PC with a list of all of the alcohol retailers in the city of Atlanta. The PC used that list to identify all the alcohol retailers in the target communities identified by zip code data.

The PC and Project Director met with Sgt. Walls of the Atlanta Police Department. Sgt. Walls is the commanding officer in charge of Alcohol Licenses and Permit for sale and is responsible for all compliance checks that take place in the City of Atlanta. Sgt. Walls agreed to support our organization’s strategy of compliance checks. Atlanta Police conduct their own compliance checks; and, when open spots are available, Sgt. Walls will allow for our youths to serve as

“youth decoys” for compliance checks. Even when compliance checks take place, and our youths are not involved, we will be able to receive the data collected during the compliance checks. Atlanta police will not be able to target all of the retailers in our community monthly because of lack of resources and staff in the division. However, Sgt. Wall agreed that we can request for specific stores to have compliance checks conducted and the police will put those stores of their list of retailers needing compliance checks.

Working with the Atlanta Police Department, the PC was trained on how to submit open record requests from the Special Operations Department. This is essential because we will need to submit an open records request in order to retrieve and use data from City wide compliance checks.

In September 2017

During this month we submitted our first open records request to the Atlanta Police Department to receive all compliance check data and activities that took place during this month.

The data received in the opens record request is for all of the compliance checks that took place within the City of Atlanta. The PC worked with members of the CPAW and Data workgroup to filter through the compliance check data to determine how many retailers in the target communities experienced compliance checks; we did not receive any compliance check data from the Atlanta Police Department on alcohol retailers located in the target communities. We will be making our own database from the data provided from the Atlanta Police department to track number of stores where compliance checks took place and whether they stores passed or failed the compliance checks.

In October 2017

During this month we did not receive any compliance check data from the Atlanta Police Department on alcohol retailers located in the target communities. We were informed when we met with the Commanding officers that compliance checks would not always take place in our target zip codes because of lack of resources and man power. We continued to communicate with APD to attempt to collect compliance check data. In addition, we will increase efforts to implement compliance checks through the GA DoR.

The PC began working with the LTG staff and CPAW members to develop a brochure to provide to alcohol retailers in the target community about the impact of selling alcohol minors in the community and the importance of proper identification when selling alcohol.

In November 2017

During this month we did not receive any compliance check data from the Atlanta Police Department on alcohol retailers located in the target communities. We will continue to communicate with APD to attempt to collect compliance check data. In addition, we will increase efforts to implement compliance checks through the GA DoR.

In December 2017

During this month we did not receive any compliance check data from the Atlanta Police Department on alcohol retailers located in the target communities. We will continue to communicate with APD to attempt to collect compliance check data. In addition, we will increase efforts to implement compliance checks through the GA DoR.

In conclusion, Learn To Grow, Inc. has tried in every way that we can think of to implement the compliance checks to no avail. We have even approached our local city officers for help, but we have not been able to get an individual Atlanta Police Officer to go through the chain of commands to receive permission to do the compliance check with or without our youth. We also understand and know that there is a shortage of Atlanta City Police Officers due to the nationwide recruitment efforts. Finally, we have also reached out several different times and left several different messages to follow up on the compliance check data with Sgt. Walls and he has not gotten back with us.

We have further concluded that the lack of resources and man power at the Atlanta City Police Department has contributed to our decision to change environmental strategies.